

The Washington Wonderland

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WASHINGTON: Newly arrived Cuban refugees report that a large Russian colony, complete with the wives and children of "thousands of new Soviet troops" is being established in Cuba.

Former Cuban Ambassador Guillermo Belt said this information comes to him from highly reliable sources, who also "disclose the build-up of Mariel as a very important submarined base" ninety miles off our shore.

Dr. Belt, a distinguished international lawyer in pre-Castro days, pointed out that foreign colonization in the Western Hemisphere is a flagrant violation of the Monroe Doctrine and the charter of the organization of American States.

An original signatory of both the OAS and UN charters, Dr. Belt is currently acting president of the Christopher Columbus Foundation which handles hemispheric student exchanges.

Calling our Cuban quarantine a farce, he said new Russian troops are arriving "by the thousands," and "that a steady stream of Russian ships is unloading wives and children, along with secret armaments."

HE SAID THAT IN THE Northwest Cuban port of Mariel, the unloading takes place after dark, when both curfew and blackout are strictly enforced.

"My sources inform me that after the Russian ships land, everyone in Mariel is ordered to turn out his lights and stay indoors," he declared. "This is the procedure that was in effect during the 1962 missiles build-up, preceding the October confrontation between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev."

Dr. Belt, who served as ambassador here

for five years until 1949, said although it is "now admitted that some top American officials knew of the Cuban missile build-up as early as June of 1962, the Kennedy Administration delayed its confrontation with Khrushchev until the eve of the elections" in late October. "Is the United States again going to wait until atomic submarines from Mariel bombard your southern cities, before taking action?" he asked.

Dr. Belt said the Russian force of 30,000 troops was substantially reduced after the historic October confrontation, but "troops are again pouring in by the thousands, complete with families."

THE FORMER AMBASSADOR expressed his belief that the unprecedented warmth of Mexico City was "a vote-of-confidence in his firm anti-Communist stand in the Dominican Republic," and a "mandate from all Latin Americans to protect them from Cuban-Soviet subversion."

Dr. Belt reminded that the U.S. twice invoked the Monroe Doctrine to prevent European colonization in this hemisphere. In 1823 we forbade a Russian colony on the West Coast, and after the Civil War we drove the French under Maximilian from Mexico.

"But what Czar Alexander I failed to get away with 143 years ago, the Kromin is achieving today in Cuba," Dr. Belt shrugged. "A Russian colony is being established right under your nose."

IF DR. Belt's information is correct that wives and children are now accompanying the troops in large numbers, it suggests that the Russians are digging in for a long stay.

Fidel Castro's recent blast at Red China made clear that the Soviets are now calling the tune in Cuba. Will the Russian sword dance replace the rumba in once-gay Havana, while we are fighting half way around the world in Viet Nam?



Belt
Montgomery